

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising

a multilayered structure of piezoelectric layers (2) with inner electrodes (3, 4) interspersed between the piezoelectric layers, and

outer electrodes (5, 6) and

layers of an adhesive band of insulating material contacting the inner electrodes (3, 4) on alternating sides, wherein the regions between the outer electrodes (5, 6) are provided with a suitable insulation (7, 8),

the insulation being a layer covering only precisely the region between the outer electrodes (5, 6), wherein the insulation (7,8) is applied ~~and~~ in a tension-free manner exactly in the region between the outer electrodes (5,6) and covering at least one edge of the piezoelectric actuator with constant thickness.

10. (Previously presented) The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive band is an adhesive tape (7, 8).

11. **(Previously presented)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, wherein the band or adhesive tape (7, 8) is comprised of a precisely measured, prefabricated material.

12. **(Previously presented)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, wherein the band or adhesive tape (7, 8) is comprised of a precisely measured, prefabricated material.

13. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

14. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

15. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

16. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator having
a multilayered structure of piezoelectric layers (2) with inner electrodes (3, 4) interspersed
between the piezoelectric layers, and
outer electrodes (5, 6) and
layers of an adhesive band of insulating material contacting the inner electrodes (3, 4) on
alternating sides, wherein the regions between the outer electrodes (5, 6) are provided with a

suitable insulation (7, 8),

the insulation being a layer covering only precisely the region between the outer electrodes (5, 6), and in a tension free manner, the method comprising the step of melting, vulcanizing, or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

17. **(Previously presented)** The method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, comprising the step of

melting vulcanizing or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

18. **(Previously presented)** The method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, comprising the step of

melting vulcanizing or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

19. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the band (7, 8) is applied through local or general area heating and/or pressure or rolling.

20. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the band (7, 8) is applied through local or general area heating and/or pressure or rolling.

21. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 19, wherein the layers (2) have shaped ~~tolerance-encumbered shape of the~~ corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) provided by is subjected to a shaping procedure at least at the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) of the piezoelectric actuator (1).

22. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 20, wherein the layers (2) have shaped ~~tolerance-encumbered shape of the~~ corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) provided by is subjected to a shaping procedure at least at the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) of the piezoelectric actuator (1).

23. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

24. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

25. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 19, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

26. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

27. **(New)** A piezoelectric actuator comprising
a multilayered structure of piezoelectric layers (2) with inner electrodes (3, 4) interspersed between the piezoelectric layers, and
outer electrodes (5, 6) and
layers of an adhesive band of insulating material contacting the inner electrodes (3, 4) on alternating sides, wherein the regions between the outer electrodes (5, 6) are provided with a suitable insulation (7, 8),

the insulation being a layer covering only precisely the region between the outer electrodes (5, 6), wherein the insulation (7,8) is applied in a tension-free manner exactly in the region between the outer electrodes (5,6) and covering with a uniform layer thickness, including the same uniform layer thickness at at least one edge of the piezoelectric actuator.